[Ibuki Satsuki's Comic Collection]

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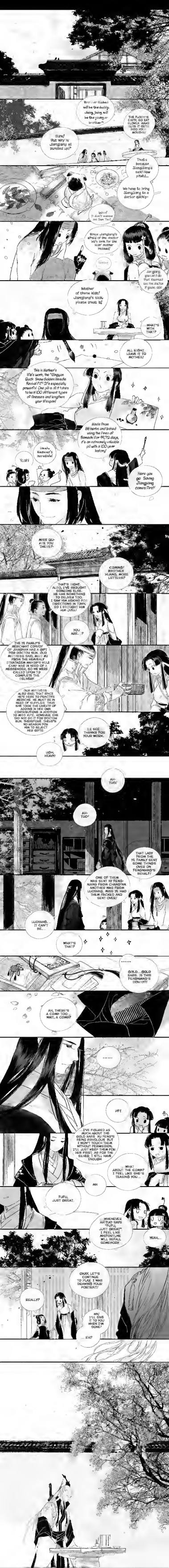
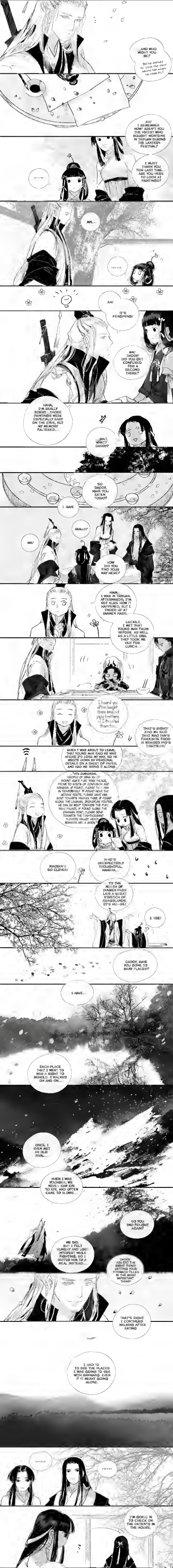
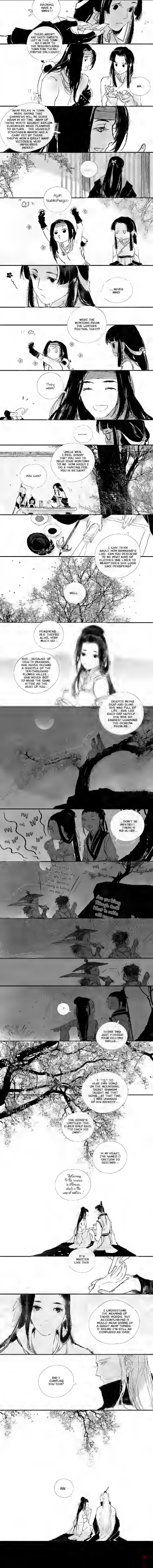

Brother Xiaobai will be the daddy. Jiang Jiang will be the younger brother~
Sure! But why is Jiangjiang all bundled up?
THE FLOOR'S DIRTY, SO EAT SLOWLY. MAKE SURE IT GETS INTO YOUR MOUTHS!
That's because Jiangjiang's sick! How pitiful...
We have to bring Jiangjiang to a doctor quickly~
Woof (I don't wanna see Sun Tuo)
Since Jiangjiang's afraid of the doctor let's look for the kids' mother instead!
......
Jiangjiang, you can't do that. You must see the doctor if you're sick!
Mother of these kids! Jiangjiang's sick, please treat it!
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
ALL RIGHT LEAVE IT TO MOTHER!
This is Mother's life's work, the "Qingyan Quick Snow Golden Needle Revival Pill"! It's especially powerful! One pill is all it takes to heal 100 different types of illnesses and lengthen your lifespan!
Made from 88 herbs and baked using the Fires of Samadhi for 99,712 days, it's an extremely valuable pill with a 100 year history!
Uwah, Xiaoxiao's incredible!
Yeah!
Here you go. Saving Jiangjiang comes first!
MISS QU-ARE YOU THERE?
COMING! BROTHER HUANG, MORE LETTERS?
THAT'S RIGHT. ALSO, I'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE ELSE. HE HAS SOMETHING TO DELIVER TOO. I SAW HIM ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS IN TOWN, SO I BROUGHT HIM HIM OVER!
YOU ARE...?
THE YE FAMILY'S MERCHANT CONVOY OF JIANGNAN HAS A GIFT FOR DOCTOR SUN. OUR MISTRESS SAID, MISS XU FROM THE HEAVENLY STRATAGEM MANOR'S WUJI CAMP WAS IN NEED OF A MESSENGER, SO WE WERE CALLED UPON TO COMPLETE THE DELIVERY.
OUR MISTRESS ALSO SAID, THAT SINCE HE'S HERE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE, HE MUST BE IN NEED OF SUPPLIES. THUS SHE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ADDING IN HER OWN CONTRIBUTIONS IN ADDITION TO MISS XU'S. HOWEVER, SHE DID NOT DO IT FOR DOCTOR SUN. THEREFORE, THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO REJECT HER GIFTS.
I-I SEE. THANKS FOR YOUR WORK.
UGH, HEAVY!
AH-TUO!
AH-TUO!
THAT LADY FROM THE YE FAMILY SENT SOME THINGS OVER ON FENGNIANG'S BEHALF!
ONE OF THEM WAS SENT BY FENG-NIANG FROM CHANG'AN. ANOTHER WAS FROM LUOYANG. MISS YE HAD THEM PACKED AND SENT OVER!
LUOYANG... IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT'S THAT?
......
GOLD...GOLD BARS. IS THIS FENGNIANG'S DOWRY?!
AH, THERE'S A COMB TOO. WAIT, A COMB?
......
PFT
I'VE FIGURED AS MUCH ABOUT THE GOLD BARS. XU FENG'S BEING FRIVOLOUS. BUT I WON'T TOUCH THEM WITHOUT PERMISSION, I'LL JUST KEEP THEM FOR HER FIRST. AS FOR THE SILVER, I STILL HAVE ENOUGH
...WHAT ABOUT THE COMB? I FEEL LIKE SHE'S TEASING YOU...
MN
FUFU, JUST GREAT.
WHENEVER AH TUO SAYS "FUFU, JUST GREAT" I FEEL LIKE MISFORTUNE WILL BEFALL SOMEBODY.
YEAH...
OKAY, LET'S CONTINUE TO PLAY. I WAS DRAWING YOUR PORTRAIT!
REALLY?
MN! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU WHEN I'M DONE!
...EH?


...AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
Did he forget to close the door behind him when he came in?
AH! I REMEMBER NOW! AREN'T YOU THE PRIEST WHO BOUGHT WONTONS IN TAIYUAN DURING THE LANTERN FESTIVAL?
I MUST THANK YOU FOR LAST TIME... ARE YOU HERE TO LOOK AT PAINTINGS?
......
MN...
......
AH!
IT'S PENGPENG!
MN! DADDY! DID YOU GET CONFUSED FOR A SECOND THERE?
HAHA, I'M REALLY SORRY... THOSE PAINTINGS WERE ESPECIALLY EASY ON THE EYES, BUT MY MEMORY FALTERED...
WAIT, WHAT? DADDY?
SO DADDY, HAVE YOU EATEN TODAY?
I HAVE
REALLY?
MN!
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR WAY HERE?
HMM. I WAS IN TAIYUAN. AFTERWARDS, I'M NOT SURE HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT I ENDED UP AT YANMEN PASS.
LUCKILY, I MET THAT YOUNG MAN FROM BEFORE, AS WELL AS A LITTLE GIRL. THEY TOOK ME OUT FOR LUNCH...
I heard you often bought them braised pig's trotters, so I treated them too...
THAT'S RIGHT! XIAO MA SAID THAT XIAO YAN'S FAVOURITE FOOD IS BRAISED PIG'S TROTTERS!
WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, THAT YOUNG MAN SAID HE WAS AFRAID I'D LOSE MY WAY, SO HE WROTE DOWN MY PERSONAL DETAILS ON A SHEET OF PAPER, AND HAD ME BRING IT ALONG
..."WEN CHANGMING, DISCIPLE OF QING XU OF MOUNT HUA'S PURE YANG PALACE, PRONE TO BOUTS OF CONFUSION AND AMNESIA. IF FOUND, PLEASE TAKE HIM IN TEMPORARILY. IF FOUND NEAR THE HEDONG ROUTE, PLEASE HAVE HIM SENT TOWARDS YANMEN PASS; IF FOUND ALONG THE LINGNAN, ZHONGYUAN ROUTES, HE CAN BE SENT TOWARDS THE PURE YANG PALACE; IF FOUND ALONG THE JIANNAN ROAD, PLEASE SEND TOWARDS THE TEN-THOUSAND FLOWERS VALLEY. HEAVY REWARDS ARE A GIVEN."
XIAOYAN'S SO CLEVER!
H-HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY THOUGHTFUL, HAHAHA...
TO THE NORTH OF YANMEN PASS LIES A GREAT STRETCH OF GRASSLANDS. IT'S HU—GE!
I SEE!
DADDY, HAVE YOU GONE TO MANY PLACES?
I HAVE...
EACH PLACE THAT I WENT TO WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. I WALKED ON AND ON...
ONCE, I EVEN MET AN OLD RIVAL...
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, WE NEVER SAW EYE TO EYE, AND OFTEN CAME TO BLOWS...
SO YOU TWO FOUGHT AGAIN?
WE DID. BUT I FELT HUNGRY AND LOST INTEREST WHILE FIGHTING, SO I INVITED HIM TO A MEAL INSTEAD...
DADDY, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING! GETTING YOUR STOMACH FILLED IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!
THAT'S RIGHT. I CONTINUED WALKING AFTER EATING
I HAD TO SEE THE PLACES I WAS GOING TO SEE WITH RANNIANG, EVEN IF IT MEANT GOING ALONE.
......
......
I'M GOING IN TO CHECK ON THE PATIENTS IN THE HOUSE.


Xiaoxiao, have a sweet!
There aren't any tasty sweets left in this town so I went to the neighbouring town for these! They're delicious!
Mn.
Many folks in town were saying that Chang'an will be ours again in no time. Many of those who'd sought asylum elsewhere were planning to return... The Heavenly Stratagem Manor has a camp set up there. They've won a great many victories. Very impressive indeed~
......
Alyah, budderflweyes~
...Never mind
Were the wontons from the Lantern Festival tasty?
They were!
......
Uncle Wen, I feel sorry that you had to yield your wontons to me. How about I do a painting for you in return?
You can?
I can! Think about how Ranniang's like. Can you describe to me what kind of clothes she likes to wear? Does she look like Pengpeng?
Well.
Pengpeng... Yes. They're alike, very much so.
She... Because of health reasons, she never became a disciple of the Ten-Thousand Flower Valley. She never got to wear the same attire as the rest of you.
Despite being deaf and dumb she was full of life... She led each day happily... She was so earnest learning the ocarina from me...
PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU PUU
...Don't be impatient. There's no hurry...
Who's that?! Don't you know the Jianghu rules?! Your demonic playing is killing my ear...!
PUU PUU
......
?
Those two just praised your ocarina skills...
I used to play this song on the mountains. Taoist Shanshi taught me that song... At that time, I was unaware of his identity...
The song's untitled. The elder only said, "To each his own"...
In my heart, I've named it <Return to Destiny>...
"Returning to the source is stillness, which is the way of nature..."
It's written like this
I understand the meaning of those words, but accomplishing it would mean giving up a great many things... It seems I'm still as confused as ever.
Did I confuse you too?
Nw

Translator's Notes

"Returning to the source is stillness, which is the way of nature."

"Returning to the source is stillness,
which is the way of nature"

-Translation by Gia-Fu Feng and Jane English,
from Chapter 16 of the Dao De Jing
(道德经 /The Classic of the Way and Of Virtue),
a Chinese Classic text by Laozi,